

Nesting Habits of the Village Weaver (*Ploceus  
cucullatus*) in Haiti

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Features of Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) nesting biology in Haiti were studied from 1981 to 1984. In 1981 and 1983, location, size, and status of colonies were noted for those found between Cap Hatien in the north and Les Cayes and Jacmel in the south (>600 km of road). Of 100 colonies found in the 2 years, most were active in May and June, some in August and September, and a few during both periods. In 62 colonies where nests were counted, numbers varied from 8 to 200 and averaged 75. In 1983 and 1984, observations were made weekly from May to September at 10 nesting colonies near Damien. Numbers of new nests, total nests, adult males, adult females, and fledglings were counted during each visit. We recorded activities, such as chasing, fighting, male displays, nest building, foraging, and loafing. In 1983, the greatest number of nests occurred in June (7 early colonies) and September (3 late colonies), and averaged 195 nests per colony (range 37-468). The greatest number of males seen in colonies averaged 35, indicating that each male built about 5.6 nests. In 1984, birds nested at only 5 of the 10 colonies. The reproductive effort was also much lower in other ways; the greatest number of males and nests in the 5 colonies averaged only 19 and 81, respectively. The aging and disappearance of old nests was monitored during the winter of 1983-84. The Village Weaver was introduced into Haiti over 200 years ago. Possible adaptations to Haitian environments were considered by comparing our findings with those of recent African nesting studies.